

# Ganci Gazette

Vol. 5, No. 20

376th Air Expeditionary Wing, Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan

May 19, 2007



**EJÉRCITO DEL AIRE  
ESPAÑA  
APOYA LA GUERRA CONTRA  
EL TERRORISMO**

[Spanish Air Force  
supports  
the War on Terrorism]

Soldado De Primero (Soldier 1st Class) Yohanna Maribel Arimijos Boloazar provides security for a 311 Escuadron (Squadron) C-130 prior to departure from Herat Air Force Base, Afghanistan. The Mizar Detachment of the 311 Escuadron is stationed at Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan.

Photo by Master Sgt. Daniel Nathaniel



# It's a whole new deployment

By Lt. Col. Elizabeth Brown

376th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron

There's a certain energy and sense of excitement that surrounds the deployment to a foreign base or country – new mission to undertake and support, new duties to learn, new people to meet, new places to see.

Saturday, May 12, was the two-month point of my six-month deployment here to Manas Air Base, and I can tell you the time has flown by, and every minute of it has been both rewarding and enjoyable!

In that two months, the Temporary Cantonment Area went from a confusing maze of tents and nameless buildings to a small town that I knew like the back of my hand, and every face that I passed on the way to dinner at the Dining Facility, or at Echo 3 enroute to Ops and Maintenance Towns, or on my way back to the dorm after a long, productive day became a familiar, friendly one.

It was kind of like walking around and working in my own hometown each day.

Then the Air Expeditionary Force 5/6 and 7/8 transition started.

It seemed as though I went to bed one night, comfortably knowing all my neighbors, and woke up to find I'd been transplanted across state lines to an identical village with completely different residents!

After banishing fears of an alien abduction – there's no way anything like that could happen with our elite Security Forces and Force Protection experts on duty 24/7 – I remembered it was time to close the AEF 5/6 chapter here at Manas and start the AEF 7/8 adventure.

While a couple hundred of us from the previous rotation will remain here after the transition is complete, this week and next really kicks off a new deployment for all of us.

AEF 5/6 is definitely leaving Manas a better place than they found it – new facilities, better communications support, improved safety procedures, more morale-boosting activities, enhanced medical treatment/finance/postal hours, faster contract procurement timelines – the list of accomplishments/improvements is pages long.

Now AEF 7/8 has the good fortune of spending the next four months in better operating conditions and accommodations than their predecessors and, in turn, work to do the same for AEF 9/10 that will follow in September.

While there hasn't been a single hint of "Groundhog's Day" syndrome here in the first third of my deployment, the swap-out of familiar neighbors for brand new faces and personalities unquestionably makes Manas a whole new place to get to know.

In the end, it's the people we meet that often make the most memorable impressions of a deployment.

So, with that in mind, I'd encourage us all to get to know our newest arrivals and look out for each other as we work to make Manas a better place, both in getting the mission done and taking care of the transient forces as they head downrange or return from often-longer tours than we're here for.

We have the next four months to learn new ways of doing our daily jobs better from each other, put forth initiatives to improve working/living conditions and quality of life at Manas, build camaraderie by joining together to volunteer at a local orphanage or raise donations for local children's medical care.

It's a brand new deployment for all of us. Even if we've been here for a little while, and I for one am looking forward to the return of that comfortable feeling of walking to work or dinner at the DFAC with familiar neighbors in our deployed "hometown".

## 376th AEW Scorecard: Supporting the Warfighter

PAX & Cargo		Fuel		
Missions	74	<u>Sorties</u> 38	<u>Receivers</u> 197	<u>Gallons</u> 365,784
Cargo(tons)	743	<u>Strike</u> 12	<u>TIC</u> 7	<u>SOF</u> 11
Passengers	4447			

### LEGEND

Sorties - # of fuel missions launched from Manas

Receivers - total # of aircraft fueled

Gallons - total fuel delivered

Strike - # fueled aircraft that carried out a ground strike

TIC - # fueled aircraft that supported troops in contact

SOF - # fueled aircraft that carried out a show of force

*These numbers represent the 376 AEW mission numbers over the last seven days.*

The *Ganci Gazette*, a deployed newsletter, is intended for members of the U.S. military services overseas. Contents of the *Ganci Gazette* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, DoD or the Department of the Air Force.

The content is edited, prepared and provided by the 376th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs Office. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

Have a story idea? Call us at 441-2700 or e-mail: [ganci.gazette@maab.centaf.af.mil](mailto:ganci.gazette@maab.centaf.af.mil).

Col. Joel "Scott" Reese..... Commander  
Capt. Tim Wade..... Public Affairs Chief  
Master Sgt. Daniel Nathaniel..... NCOIC/Editor  
Mr. James Westfall..... Visual Information  
Mr. Robin Hicks..... Visual Information

[www.afnews.af.mil/internal/papers/ganci.pdf](http://www.afnews.af.mil/internal/papers/ganci.pdf)





**Story and Photos by Master Sgt. Daniel Nathaniel**  
*376th AEW Public Affairs*

Soon after Manas Air Base, then known as Peter J. Ganci AB, was established here in December 2001, the Ejercito del Aire España or Spanish Air Force, deployed a C-130 detachment known as Gemini in February 2002 to assist in Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.

The Gemini detachment redeployed to Kuwait in June 2003 and it was not until August 2004 that the current Mizar detachment was established.

Mizar, the horse, is the name of a star in Ursa Major and the companion to Alcor, the rider, which is by design the name of the Mizar's sister detachment in Herat, Afghanistan.

The mission of the Spanish deployment here is to provide tactical intratheatre airlift in terms of cargo and personnel for Spanish forces stationed in Afghanistan as a part of the International Security Assistance Force Operation.

ISAF is an international NATO-led military force charged by the United Nations with securing Kabul and surrounding areas from al Qaeda, Taliban and other opposition forces.

This airlift support includes transporting personnel, cargo and providing medical evacuation for bases in Herat, Qalae-e Naw, and Kabul.

In the addition, the detachment flies missions to remote bases in the Area of Responsibility for coalition forces as well.

The medevac mission is one of the reasons why the detachment maintains a clinic with a doctor and medical technician on hand, said Commandante (Maj.) Santiago Ibarreta, Mizar Detachment commander.

Spanish medical personnel have worked closely with the 376th Expeditionary Medical Group when called upon. In February, Doctor Guzman Alonso and Cpl. Andre Seone Del Rio aided their 376th EMDG counterparts with an Airman who suffered a serious leg injury.

"They responded quickly to the clinic when I called," said Tech. Sgt. Marisol Harwell, 376th EMDG surgical technician. "Their extensive knowledge in trauma contributed significantly to the success of patient's treatment."

The detachment has also offered the use of their medical personnel should there be an emergency on base, said Cte. Iberreta.

While more than 50 members of the detachment are operations and maintenance personnel from the 311 Escuadron (Squadron) of the 31 Ala (Wing) stationed at Saragossa Air Force Base they are supplemented by communications, medical and financial personnel from other bases from throughout Spain.

When they are not flying their missions, the Mizar members are

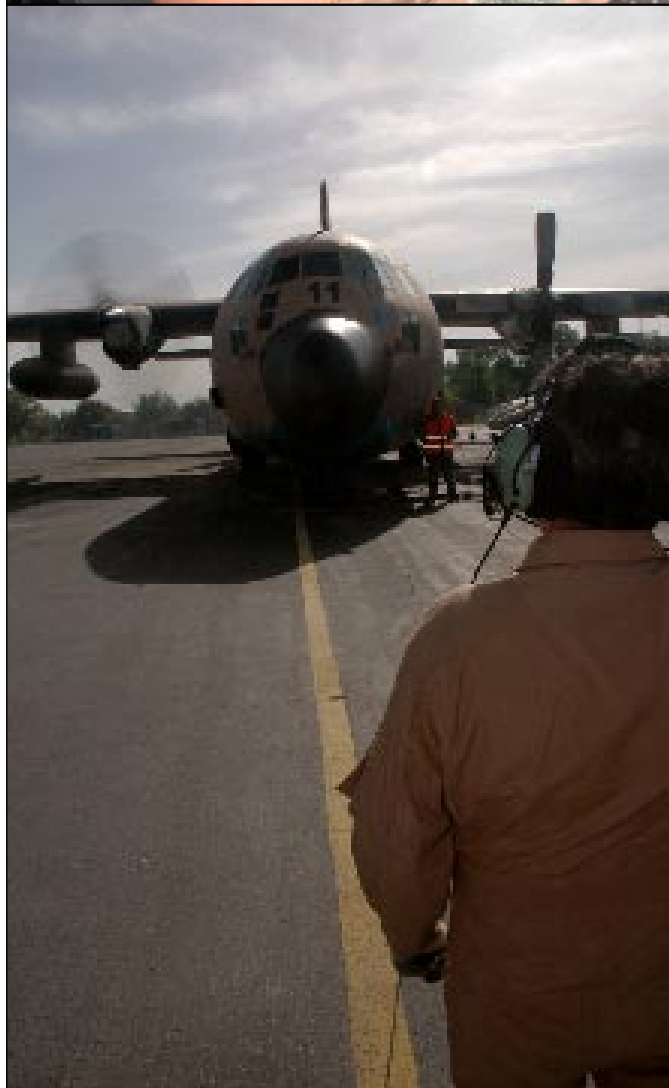
See **MIZAR** Page 4



Left - Capitan Carlos Montemayor, pilot, prepares to land the C-130 at Herat Air Force Base, Afghanistan.

Above - Sergento (Sgt.) Juan Campos directs a forklift to load cargo destined for Spanish forces in Afghanistan..





### MIZAR from page 3

renown for being enthusiastic ambassadors of their culture, by volunteering in the local community, teaching their language to Kyrgyz citizens and hosting celebrations that bring together all the coalitions on base whether French, Kyrgyz or American.

"I find that being here to be one of the best experiences of my career," Cte. Iberreta said. "The work you (the Liberandos) have here, the sacrifice your families and friends do, the moments you are living here, and the people who are around you are special."

Top - left, Capitan Carlos Montemayor, pilot, and Comandante (Maj.) Santiago Ibarreta, co-pilot, and Mizar detachment commander fly a mission to Herat, Afghanistan.

Left - Sgt. Juan Campos, loadmaster, monitors engine start of the Mizar detachment's C-130 prior to its mission.

Bottom - Subniente (SMSgt.) Santiago Llovera, flight engineer, Cte. Ibarreta and Capt. Montemayor discuss the flight.





# SHIRT POCKET

*Brought to you by the Manas First Sergeants Council  
"Bad news is not like wine, it does not get better with time."*

## How do I know if my tattoo is "excessive," and what should I do about it if it is?

"Excessive" tattoos exceed one quarter of the exposed body part or are above the collarbone and readily visible when wearing an open collar uniform. You only have two options here at Manas if you have excessive tattoos--cover them completely or have them removed. However, since there is no safe way to remove them here there is really only one option. Therefore, they must be covered completely. Did you know that failing to do this violates Article 92 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice? Check out AFI 36-2903, table 2.5 for more details.

## What are the top two violations first sergeants observe concerning wear of Physical Training gear?

Identification not displayed, ID displayed incorrectly, portable entertainment devices worn outside or in the Dining Facility or Base Exchange (includes earphones hanging around neck or protruding from the collar), shirt untucked, shirt tucked in at the hem to present a "bloused" appearance, hats worn inside, unauthorized hats worn outside, sunglasses propped on head or hung on uniform, black socks, non-athletic shoes, unshaven males, female hair not pulled back, shorts or trousers worn below the waist, oversized shirts or shorts, warmup pants with unzipped cuffs or cuffs pulled up to the knees, excessive tattoos not covered, and occasionally shirt or shorts worn backwards... Oh wait, you only wanted the top two...



The wing first sergeants recognize Airmen displaying outstanding leadership, exceptional duty performance, and impeccable dress and appearance with the Diamond Sharp award.

Airman 1st Class Mark Phillips is one of my sharpest Security Forces Airman. His uniform, bearing and behavior and work ethic are impeccable. He scored a 97 percent on his Journeyman level End of Course test, raised \$ 510.90 for the Top 3 Push-up/Sit-Up fund raiser, spends his off-duty time volunteering at the Children's Cancer Center and assisted with the squadron barbecue after working a 12-hour shift. Ask him to do something and you can consider it done.



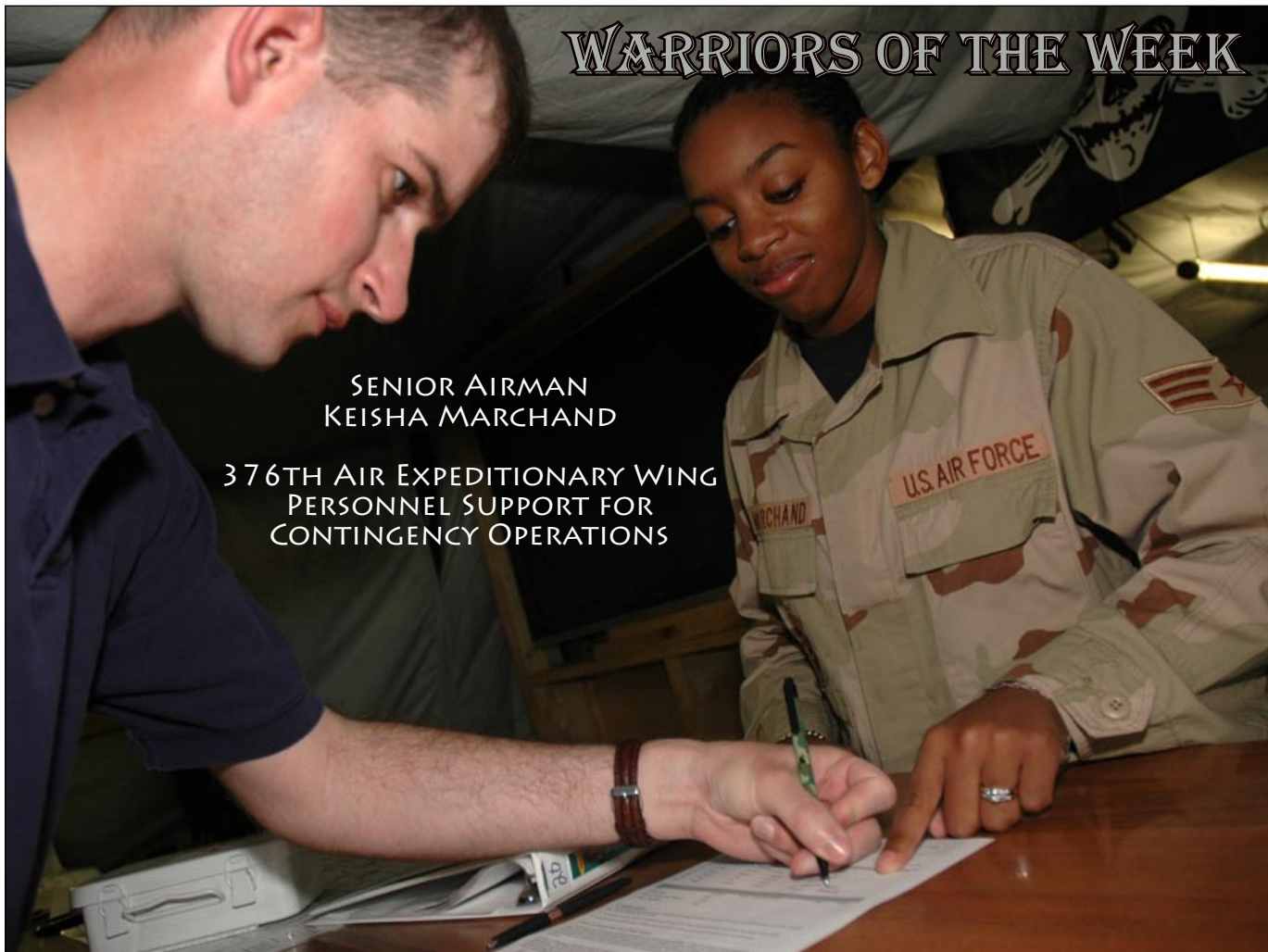
## Commander's Action Line

What would you ask Col. Joel "Scott" Reese if you had the chance to ask anything?

The Commander's Action Line is your opportunity to get that question answered. Simply send an e-mail with subject line "Commander's Forum" to: [376aew.cal@maab.centaf.af.mil](mailto:376aew.cal@maab.centaf.af.mil).

The commander will provide a response via e-mail for most issues. Members are encouraged to work issues through their chain of command or appropriate agency prior to using the forum.





## WARRIORS OF THE WEEK

SENIOR AIRMAN  
KEISHA MARCHAND

376TH AIR EXPEDITIONARY WING  
PERSONNEL SUPPORT FOR  
CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS

355TH MEDICAL GROUP, DAVIS-MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE, ARIZ.

PERSCO REPRESENTATIVE, DAY SHIFT

FAVORITE THING ABOUT MANAS:

"I ENJOY THE FOOD SERVED AT THE DINING FACILITY."

FAVORITE PART OF THE JOB:

"MY FAVORITE ASPECT OF THE JOB IS PROVIDING NEW ARRIVALS WITH THEIR INITIAL ARRIVAL BRIEFING TO:

- ENSURE THEY UNDERSTAND MANAS COMMUNITY STANDARDS
- PROVIDE TRANSIENT PERSONNEL PERTINENT INFORMATION FOR THEIR STAY
- ENSURE ACCURATE ACCOUNTABILITY FOR EACH AND EVERY TRANSIENT, PERSCO's #1 JOB!"

LIFE AFTER MANAS:

"KISS AND LOVE ON MY ONE-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER."

TECH. SGT. CHRISTINA LAPITAN SAYS:

"SENIOR AIRMAN MARCHAND IS AN EXCEPTIONAL BRIEFER FOR ALL NEW FORCES WHO TRANSIT THROUGH MANAS. SHE UNDERSTANDS THAT FIRST IMPRESSIONS ARE LASTING IMPRESSIONS AND SHE DEFINITELY MAKES A GOOD FIRST IMPRESSION. AIRMAN MARCHAND FLAWLESSLY MANAGES THE IN AND OUTGOING TRANSIENT DATABASE AND ENSURES ALL PERSONNEL ARE IMMIGRATED WITHIN THE ESTABLISHED TIME LIMIT."

PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. DANIEL NATHANIEL

HOME UNIT: 92ND AIR REFUELING SQUADRON, FAIRCHILD AIR FORCE BASE, WASH.

22 EARS PLANNER/BOOM OPERATOR

FAVORITE THING ABOUT MANAS:

"IT IS NOT 125 DEGREES OUTSIDE AND THERE ARE TREES HERE."

FAVORITE PART OF THE JOB:

"BEING ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO WHAT WE ARE DOING OUT HERE."

LIFE AFTER MANAS:

"I LOOK FORWARD SPENDING THE SUMMER AT FAIRCHILD FISHING AND RIDING MY BIKE."

MAJ. S. ROBERT WALMSLEY SAYS:

"RANDY IS AN OUTSTANDING NEW NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER. HE EXCELS AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY; HIS JOB IS CRITICAL TO OUR MISSION, AND THE FUEL HE IS ACCOUNTABLE FOR GETTING INTO THE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY IS SAVING LIVES ON THE GROUND. THE KC-135 CREWS HE SUPPORTS RELY ON HIS EXPERTISE DAY IN AND DAY OUT. THANKS FOR YOUR HARD WORK RANDY!!"

PHOTO BY MAJ. S. ROBERT WALMSLEY

STAFF SGT.  
RANDY MILLER

22ND EXPEDITIONARY AIRCRAFT  
REFUELING SQUADRON





# LOCAL CHILDREN'S CENTER TOPS WITH TOP 3

By Master Sgt. Robert Boettner  
376th Expeditionary Services Squadron

Everyone here has heard about the Manas Air Base Outreach Society and the Village Partnership, and the great things they do for our host nation but what people don't usually hear about is the Nadjeshda Center, which is proudly sponsored by the 376th Air Expeditionary Wing's Top 3 Council.

The Nadjeshda center is home for 60 children ages two through 21 who have severe physical and mental disabilities. The center is partially funded by international contributions.

It is also a full-time home for some children whose parents live too far away to come pick them up everyday.

However, for the majority of students, this is simply their school, which they attend during the day.

The children not only learn reading and writing, but they sing, learn to play the flute, paint, or make pottery, and are introduced to the various forms of Kyrgyzstan and Russian handicraft, such as working with felt and wood. Across the street, is a playground where they have a couple of horses available for daily therapeutic rides with assistance from the staff members and volunteers.

The school has a physician and a psychiatrist as part of their full time staff.

It is immediately apparent upon seeing the kids and meeting the staff that these children are well cared for and loved immensely.

The kids are an absolute joy to play with and their enthusiastic smiles will warm your heart.

On our last trip to the center for AEF 5/6, the Top 3 was able to present a check to them for \$850.00. The donation



Master Sgt. Cristal Bullock and friend from the Nadjeshda Center go climbing on the jungle gym.

will be used to feed the children for about the next four-and-a-half months.

I can not express enough how a small effort on our part, made such a positive impression on the children here. All the funds raised from the Sit-up/Push-up competition held May 5 and 6 will make an immediate impact on these wonderful children.

We were able to bring out participants in the fund raiser, so they could see first hand what there efforts supported.

You can learn more about the center and the amazing work they do for the children at [www.nadjeshda.org](http://www.nadjeshda.org) or by just taking a trip out there with the Top 3.



Staff Sgt. Vera Ricardo (next to wheelchair), Airman 1st Class Mark Phillips and Airman 1st Class Luis Capilla as winners in the 376th Air Expeditionary Wing's TOP 3 Council's Sit-up/ Push-up contest have the honor of presenting a check for the \$850 they helped raise to the Nadjeshda Center.



## SPOTLIGHT ON Col. Roger Thrasher



### 376TH EXPEDITIONARY SUPPORT GROUP COMMANDER

Previously deployed twice before to Dhahran AB, Saudi Arabia for Operations DESERT CALM/ SOUTHERN WATCH.

#### Goals and expectations for new command?

"I expect the men and women of the 376th EMSG to continue the excellent job they've been doing of executing our Wing's mission of delivering people, cargo and air refueling for OEF. My motto for how we'll do this is to 'Be Prepared, Work Smart, and Leave It Better Than You Found It.'"

#### Goals and expectations for yourself on this rotation?

"My goals are to take my exercise program up a few notches, do some professional reading and writing, and hopefully see some of the people and sights of Kyrgyzstan."

#### What are some of your hobbies and interests?

"I enjoy biking, reading, Boy Scouts/camping, and jogging (at the pace I go, you can't call it running)."

#### What would most surprise people to know about you?

"I once karaoked to "Roxanne" with a bunch of British expatriates in Bahrain."

#### Why did the Chicken cross the road?

"Because he was hiking the Appalachian Trail and the path crossed the road."

Photo by Jim Westfall



# Safety is job number one

By Lt. Col. A.D. Davis  
376th AEW Safety Office

Welcome to Manas Air Base and Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. For some of us, this is our first Air Expeditionary Force rotation. For others, you're seasoned veterans. Either way, we all need refresher training on proper safety practices.

As your Chief of Safety, I want to take the opportunity to address the safety philosophy, as well as some of the emphasis items here.

We've all heard the mantra, "safety is everyone's business." While true, we sometimes fail to see the inseparable relationship of safety and readiness; and we relegate safety to something we must "do" rather than something we must inculcate into the warrior mindset. I like to call this relationship "safety-mindedness".

What does this mean? Simply put, it means: being proficient; avoiding unnecessary risks; mitigating risk where possible; and if necessary, accepting a certain level of risk based on the nature of the mission.

We as Airmen are responsible for ensuring proficiency in our job which is only possible when we understand the integral part safety plays in the process.

Each of us is trained to perform a specific duty, which can be likened to driving along a mountain road only one lane wide, with no guardrail, and a 3000-foot drop over the edge. Oh, by the way, it's pitch black outside.

Clearly, any reasonable individual wouldn't think of exceeding his/her limitations by driving too fast, failing to use the headlights, or getting close to the edge for fear of the road giving way or misjudging where the tires are, resulting in a 3000-foot plummet to one's demise.

Instead, one would be mindful to drive carefully with purpose, staying in the center of the road, or as close to the mountain wall as possible.

You really didn't have to think about it, did you? Why not? Because a safety mindset is woven into the ability to drive proficiently along the mountain road, while incorporating safe practices of speed control, proper lighting, and not pushing the edges. Likewise, our job proficiency (i.e., readiness) and safety practices must be seamless.

You might say, "Sounds good in theory, Colonel Davis, but what about application?"

Clearly, we have to be pragmatic; all the knowledge we possess and policies we write are meaningless if we fail to execute properly, or even execute at all.

Moreover, being in the Area of Responsibility is not a license to be cavalier.

We're still required to be disciplined in our actions and to comply with standards, just as we do at home-station. Let me share some safety emphasis items:

1) Driving. We adhere to speed limits at home-station, we need to do the same in the AOR.

2) Reflective gear. This is a requirement for flight-line personnel and highly encouraged for all others during low-visibility conditions at home station. Again, there is no difference in the AOR; except here at Manas, it's mandatory for all personnel throughout the base.

3) Seatbelt use. This one should be standard operating procedure; however, I believe the slower speeds we drive have caused some to think, "what's 20 km/h going to do without a seatbelt?" Answer: it can kill you.

As we transition into this AEF rotation, let's incorporate a spirit of "safety-mindedness". Right now, our vigilance is high because of unfamiliarity and lack of routine.

Yet in roughly three weeks, statistics show mishaps begin to rise. Think about this now, so you can be prepared to mitigate complacency in the future.

Commanders are charged with managing their safety programs through their unit safety representatives, yet the success of the safety program lies with you, the individual Airman.

We in the safety office are here to help you be successful; to help you return with honor, integrity, and in one piece. Let's make this AEF rotation one to remember - for all the right reasons.



## lyceum #13 update

Photo by Master Sgt. Daniel Nathaniel

Airman 1st Class Sulema Olsen shares her views on drug use and peer pressure with the students of Lyceum #13 at their school in Bishkek. The students are a part of a regular exchange program which promotes cultural awareness with Airmen through English Discussion. Airman Olsen, 376th Expeditionary Services Squadron, is deployed from the 314th Services Squadron, Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark.



## SPOTLIGHT ON Lt. Col. Gerald Frederick



### 376TH EXPEDITIONARY MAINTENANCE GROUP COMMANDER

**Previously deployed to** Desert Storm/Calm, Atlas Response (African Flood Relief), multiple pre-9/11 RC-135 deployments.

#### Goals and expectations for new command?

"My goals for the EMXG are: (1) to safely accomplish the mission and send everyone home with all the parts they came to AOR with and (2) to leave the organization better than when we arrived. Everyone in the group plays a key role in both – it will take all of us to bring these to fruition."

#### Goals and expectations for yourself on this rotation?

"To spend the time on the flightline and in the shops, and to get to know the men and women who make the mission happen...this is a luxury that is not always doable at home. Also, dropping 20 pounds would be a great thing too."

#### What are some of your hobbies and interests?

"1- Family foremost. 2 - Watching my Cubs lose, my Bears win (unless it is the Super Bowl), and NAS-CAR. 3 - Working outside in the garden or in the woods around our house (in Illinois) and buying all the power tools that are critical for both."

#### What would most surprise people to know about you?

"My favorite way to relieve stress is to take down an old dead tree, split it, and relax under the stars in the glow of the fire pit!"

Photo by Robin Hicks



# LIBERANDO LOVE LETTERS

**Editor's Note - In honor of Military Spouse Appreciation Day, May 11, 2007, Liberandos were invited to write something special to or about their husband or wife whose contributions should never be underestimated.**

On the eve of Military Spouse Appreciation Day, May 11th, it was fitting that my wife Anna was doing what military spouses do - saying farewell. She's actually had several opportunities to say farewell in her 19+ year Air Force "career." She's lived in 13 homes in nine states in the U.S. plus two foreign countries. In addition to numerous volunteer efforts, she's held five full-time jobs in that time and eight part-time. Although her resume gets longer with every job, each time she must start over and prove herself. And several times she's moved up rapidly into leadership positions. Only to start over at the next location. Most would not know that Anna earned her private pilot's license in the first year of her first-born's life, that she was valedictorian of her high school class, or that she graduated sum cum laude from Fort Hays State University. Military spouses are truly a special breed. Except that ... they're not. They bleed the same color as the rest of us, and their tears look the same as well. And when their spouses are away for four months or one year, they do the only thing left to do - they handle it. Fortunately for me, Anna did not consider another option. If you happen to see a military spouse you know this Friday, give her or him a hug. I know I can't wait to hug mine.

- Col Scott Reese, 376th AEW Commander

"Ryan Berggren: My wonderful husband and best friend. Thank you for always being there and supporting me through my military journey. Without your continues support, I don't know how I would have made it this far. So for that, thank you. I love and miss you!

- Senior Airman Andrea Berggren, 376th ECES

My husband, Tech. Sgt. William Bullock's rock solid support throughout my deployment allowed me to keep my mind on the mission without worries of home. Between numerous doctor appointments for my 15 month-old son, basketball and softball practices with my 12 year-old daughter, a busy work schedule and coaching on the side, he has been the picture perfect father and husband for which I am eternally grateful.

- Master Sgt. Cristal Bullock, 376th AEW/JA

Jane, Thank you so much for staying by my side throughout our first deployment. Your support and dedication is what makes military spouses so exceptional. Without you by my side, life would be a lot different and not for the best. You are my rock as well as my pineapple and soon to be mommy of our child. With all my love and support, Your husband & Turtle, Andy :)

- Master Sgt. Andrew Bizier, 376th ECES

"Thanks Lynette for your 15 plus years of awesome support, it has always been a key to my success especially now during my six-month deployment. It amazes me how you can be such a great wife, loving mother of three and an active duty Senior Master Sergeant in the Air Force.....you are the best! Love you....."

- Chief Master Sgt. Jeffrey Cui, 376th ESFS

I would like to celebrate my spouse by thanking her for being the light that guides me everyday. I could never fully express my love for her and how grateful I am that she is a part of my life.

- Senior Airman Elwood Kirk, 376th ESFS

My wife is the perfect military spouse. She loves seeing new places, making new friends, and helping other military spouses. Her strength and independence make military life a lot easier. She gives me a confidence in myself that enables me to be a better Airman. I love you baby.

- Staff Sgt. Adam Aguilar, 376th ESVS/LRC

My dearest wife Ronda, pays the bills, home schools our son, maintains our home and yard, and in general keeps the home fires burning. I could not serve my country here, if she did not sacrifice at home.

- Senior Airman David Aebi, 376th EAMXS/C-17

My Darling Wife Paula has maintained her own hectic schedule while still helping to raise three great grandkids. She has done her usual great job in holding together the home front. I view her sacrifice as greater than mine.

- Senior Master Sgt. Michael Campbell, 376 ELRS/LGRA

TO: Marla Barwick, Mountain Home AFB, ID

You have made it so easy for me to have peace of mind that everything is fine at home. I am truly blessed to have the most dedicated wife, and mother in the US Air Force. I Love you and can't wait to see you and the kids!

- Tech. Sgt. Steve Barwick, 376th ECPTS

I am a lucky wife to have a wonderful husband like Eric J. Hebden. He is loving, caring and totally supportive in anything I do! This is what helped me be able to "be all I can be" during this deployment. Love you honey,

- Senior Master Sgt. Ruth Hebden, 376th AEW Protocol

To my lovely wife Jennifer Wendy Durbin, When no one else believed in me, you did and gave me the courage to stay the course. Thank you for your sacrifices, for being my inspiration and my soul mate!

- Tech. Sgt. Christopher A. Durbin III, 376th ESFS

## LIBERANDO LOVE LETTERS Continued

My wife Suzanne, like all spouses are the true unsung heroes during deployments. They keep the house holds running and pick up the slack we leave behind. I could never have gotten to where I am today without her continued guidance, support and inspiration.

- Tech. Sgt. Christian D. Cantrill, 376th ESFS

I appreciate my wife Kimbra for her love and support during my deployment. I know its not easy for her to run the household and care for our family during another summer without my help. She is always in my thoughts and I love her.

- Staff Sgt. Thomas Raynor, 376th AMXS C-17

Words truly can not express how grateful I am to my husband Sgt. Maj. (ret.) Terry O'Connor for his untiring support, motivation & commitment. Having served 30 years he understands deployments and remote assignments, however being the person left behind was new to him in 2001 when I first deployed. His love, support and dedication continued in 2004 when I was remote to Korea and continues to this day as I serve on another deployment. I thank him from the bottom of my heart for being there for me.

- Senior Master Sgt. Sharon O'Connor, 376th ESFS/CCF

To my wife, Cathi Duggins.

My wife has stayed by my side through some very tough times. She is always there to lift my spirits when I'm feeling down. I love her so much!

Thank you,

- Staff Sgt. Aaron E. Duggins, SSgt

Wanda,

Thanks for everything you have done for me during this deployment. I feel honored to be your husband as you have dealt with each challenge placed before you. I know I say it all time but I just want to say it again, I Love You. Thank you for being my best friend and partner in this journey of life. Your loving husband,

- Capt. Tim Wade, 376th AEW/PA

Cheeeeeez....I love you and miss you! Thanks for keeping everything going and taking care of everyone. I miss you tons!

Gerry

- Lt. Col. Gerald Frederick, 376th EMXG/CC

To Jacqueline,

I just want to say "Thank You" for being supportive of me during my career and this deployment. Your strength, courage and wisdom kept me going. I love you more than you'll ever know.

Your devoted husband,

Michael

- Chief Master Sgt. Michael F. Williams, 376th EMSG

Jamie, I believe the mutual support we provide each other is the best thing about our relationship – we always celebrate each other's victories and console each other during times of temporary setback. I find comfort in knowing whenever I need a word of encouragement or a listening ear you are there for me. Know that you are dearly loved and sincerely appreciated. ~ ryaja

- Capt Ryaja Johnson-Rhone, 376th ECONS/CC

My wife is not only my best friend, she is also the best person I know on the planet. Her love, support and strong sense of patriotism enhances my ability to accept challenges put before me and perform to the best of my ability. I know I have "Wingmen" in the Air Force, but there is no one that has my back like she does.

- Senior Master Sgt. Davis Kiger, 376th ELRS/LGRVO

What to say about my husband on Military Spouses Appreciation Day? What do you say about a man who takes care of two toddlers and manages the home as a single parent, while sending his love and support in photographs and care packages to his wife far, far away? Wilkie Collins said it best, "Words fail me."

- 1st. Lt. Je H. Raley, 376th AEW/ECES

Trenette,

On this Military Spouses Appreciation Day, thank you for your personnel sacrifice. God created you in his image and equipped you for such experiences in times of separation. So many times, you have juggled many things and through the power of God have become the best at making the best out of seemingly not so good circumstances. Being married to you is like having the priceless pearl; I would not trade you for the world. - Lorenzo

- Master Sgt. Lorenzo Steele, 376 AEW/ECES

Air Force spouses are an important and sometimes under-appreciated "force multiplier." A little over twenty-seven years ago, I took my first oath of enlistment. Although my wife, Rita, was behind me in spirit she did not raise her hand to take that oath. And yet, she has endured all that goes with being a military wife, the joys and the hardship, in a manner that displays the same total dedication and loyalty to our great Air Force. Without her and her support, I know that I could not have enjoyed any of the successes I have been allowed to share with our service. Together we have raised two fine children across an Air Force career that included eight air bases (some of them twice) and many more different homes. We have shared tough times together and when we endured the separations that are a part of Air Force life, she somehow held everything together by herself. When I look at her, I am always very proud of the woman she has become and grateful that she allowed me to pursue this career no matter where it led us. Her incredible strength and support are just a few of the many reasons I love her and believe me, I know how lucky I am.

Chief Master Sgt. L. "Dwayne" Mohr, 376th AEW Command Chief Master Sergeant



# MEET THE AEF 5/6 MISSION HACKERS



On May 4, Col. Scott Reese, 376th Air Expeditionary Wing commander, inducted twenty-five Airmen into the 'Mission Hacker Hall of Fame.' They were selected among those personnel here on the AEF 5/6 rotation.

Established in May 2006, the award recognizes Airmen, who through their untiring efforts and unselfish sacrifice, dedication and fidelity to duty, overcome extraordinary challenges and arduous circumstances in executing the Air Force's mission on-

time, anytime and anywhere.

They do this while not compromising safety or compliance with Air Force Instructions or Air Force Technical Orders in the execution of the mission.

The selectees receive a one-of-a-kind coin from the wing commander and their names will be permanently ascribed on a display in the halls of the wing headquarters, outside the commander's office.

## In Alphabetical Order

Anderson, Christopher, Staff Sgt.  
Bizier, Andrew, Master Sgt.  
Boettner, Robert, Master Sgt.  
Bradford, James, Senior Airman  
Carter, Cassandra, Senior Airman  
Castillo, Martin, Staff Sgt.  
Castle, William, Staff Sgt.  
Dick, Eric, Tech. Sgt.  
Donivan, Daniel, Staff Sgt.

Freimarck, Michael, Capt  
Gauny, Cory, Tech. Sgt.  
Hebden, Ruth, Senior Master Sgt.  
Jones, Salena, 1st Lt.  
Kolbinskie, Kenneth, Capt  
Locker, Misty, Airman 1st Class  
McCrary, Spencer, Tech. Sgt.  
Medford, John, Master Sgt.  
Raykovich, Pete, Master Sgt.

Siegman, James Master Sgt.  
Tendetnik, Pavel G. 1st Lt.  
Varela, Jarrett, Tech. Sgt.  
Wardrip, Robert, Senior Airman  
West, Jack M. Tech. Sgt.  
Williams, Michael, Chief Master Sgt.  
Williams, Thomas, Master Sgt.

# Celebrating National Nurses Week

**By Col. David Hocking**  
*376th EMDG Commander*

The 376th Expeditionary Medical Group joined thousands of fellow military nurses worldwide and millions of nurses throughout the United States in celebrating National Nurses Week, May 6-12. The theme for this year's celebration, Nursing: A Profession and a Passion.

The history of National Nurses Week dates back to 1953 when President Dwight D. Eisenhower was given a proposal from Dorothy Sutherland of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. The initial suggestion was to have a day set aside to recognize the numerous contributions nurses made to health care and coinciding with the 100th

anniversary of Florence Nightingale's tireless and compassionate nursing care of British soldiers during the Crimean War.

Over the years, Nurses Week continued to evolve to what it is today; as the American Nurses Association Board of Directors designated May 6 - 12 as permanent dates to observe National Nurses Week in 1994 and in all subsequent years. This week-long celebration concluded on the 12th of May, the birthday of Florence Nightingale, who many consider the founder of present day nursing.

Military nursing continues to evolve in support of the war fighter. From an Air Force perspective, the light, lean expeditionary medical capability has supported numerous worldwide missions, treated over

a million patients and deployed thousands in support of Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM. In fact over 50 percent of deployed Air Force medics are part of the Total Nursing Force, representing the Active Duty, Guard, and Reserve.

As highly respected members of the health care team, Air Force Nurses are excelling in the in-garrison environment as well. In state of the art medical facilities, clinics and aero medical evacuation squadrons, nurses continue to touch the lives of patriots, past, present, and future.

It is important we celebrate the many great contributions of Team Nursing and the numerous contributions to the total health delivery team. Nurses, take a bow, you deserve it!



## Self-Portrait

Photo by  
Master Sgt. Daniel Nathaniel  
in Herat, Afghanistan

## Wings of Hope Chapel

*For more information, contact the Chapel at 441-2307/2308*

### Worship Services

Mon-Fri: 7 p.m.	Catholic Mass
Saturday: 7 p.m.	Catholic Mass (Confession 6:15-6:45 p.m.)
Sunday: 9 a.m.	Catholic Mass (Confession 8:15-8:45 a.m.)
10:15 a.m.	Traditional Protestant Worship
11 a.m.	Contemporary Protestant Worship
12:30 p.m.	Latter-day Saints Worship
7:30 p.m.	Gospel

### Weekly Studies

Tuesday: 7:45 p.m.	Gospel Choir Practice
Wednesday: 7:45 p.m.	Protestant Bible Classes
Thursday: 7:45 p.m.	Catholic Adult Education

*\*All services are subject to change  
after publication.*

